

INFORMAL COMMUNICATION: Please do not put in the file

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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First Named Inventor Alik Teplitsky
Assignee Microsoft Corporation
Group Art Unit 2167
Examiner Michael D. Pham
Attorney's Docket No. MS1-1871US
Title Link Modification System and Method

**INFORMAL COMMUNICATION IN PREPARATION FOR
SCHEDULING AN INTERVIEW**

To: Examiner Pham
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Dear Examiner Pham:

[0001] This communication provides an agenda for a phone interview of this matter. My assistant will be contacting you to schedule an interview. If you would prefer to schedule the interview, then please contact my assistant or me directly. Our contact info is on the signature page of this document. Thank you in advance to talking with me about this matter.

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Interview Agenda:

- Discussion of difference between claims and cited art;
- Discussion of proposed amendments

Exemplary Differences

[0002] It does not appear to me that primary cited references (i.e., Watson Jr, and Csaszar) disclose the following (in particular, the emphasized text) from independent claim 1, as newly amended:

“**deleting the identified link information** from the link translation table **after communicating** the requested web page to the external browser application.”

[0003] Instead, Watson Jr does not disclose deleting the link information from the link translation table. Csaszar discloses “deleting.” However, there seems only to be disclosure of deleting **before** actually serving the web page to the user such that the links are not active to the user.

[0004] Specifically, in lines 45-55 of col. 4, Csaszar states:

“The removal process renders the non-approved links inactive, such that clicking on the link will not result in a new database request. This deactivation process strips the element (e.g. word, graphic object) from its linking qualities by removing a portion of the code defining the link. The element may also be stripped of any features that signal the presence of a link, such as an identifying color. Thus, the user will not be aware that a link has been deactivated.”

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It thus appears that Csaszar would not be a good basis on which to reject the element or feature of "deleting" the links from the translation table as recited in the newly amended claims.

Proposed Amendments

[0005] It is noted that lines 16-35, col. 9, of Watson Jr apparently discloses all of the elements of the claims in this application. I do not wish to protract prosecution merely for the sake of splitting hairs over Watson Jr, especially in view of a likely crowded area of the art and the current view of § 103 and obviousness. Thus, I would like to briefly discuss your view of the novel elements within this patent application, if any.

[0006] Accordingly, I propose making the claim amendments as found in the appendix. Depending on the outcome of our discussion, we may be able to drastically reduce the number of pending claims in this application.

[0007] I look forward to talking to you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: March 4, 2008

By: _____

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Appendix of Claims with Proposed Amendments

- 1. (Currently Amended)** A method comprising:
 - receiving a request for an internal web page from an external browser application;
 - identifying link information contained in the request for the internal web page;
 - storing the link information which has been identified in a link translation table;
 - identifying at least one internal link in the internal web page;
 - modifying the at least one internal link based on the link information stored in the link translation table, such that the internal link is accessible by the external browser application; and
 - communicating the requested web page, including the modified internal link, to the external browser application; and
 - deleting the identified link information from the link translation table after communicating the requested web page to the external browser application.

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12. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a request for an internal web page from an external source, wherein the request for an internal web page is received via a public network and wherein the internal web page is stored on a server coupled to a private network;

identifying link information contained in the request for an internal web page;

storing the identified link information in a link translation table;

retrieving the internal web page;

translating any internal links in the internal web page such that the internal links are accessible by the external source, wherein translating comprises accessing data in the link translation table; and

communicating the internal web page, including the translated internal links, to the external source; and

deleting the identified link information from the link translation table after communicating the internal web page to the external source.

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25. (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to:

receive a request for an internal web page via a public network;

retrieve the requested internal web page;

identify link information contained in the request for the internal web page;

store the link information which has been identified in a link translation table;

determine whether the internal web page contains any internal links; if the internal web page contains at least-one internal link:

modify the at least one internal link based on the link information stored in the link translation table, such that the internal link is accessible via the public network; and

generate data representing the requested internal web page, wherein the generated data includes the modified internal link; and

delete the identified link information from the link translation table after communicating the requested internal web page.

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29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a request for a web page associated with an internal network; and

means for identifying link information contained in the request for the web page associated with the internal network;

means for storing the link information which is identified in a link translation table, wherein the means for storing link translation data contains portions of internal links and corresponding portions of external links; and

means for translating internal links contained in the web page based on the link information stored in the link translation table, the translating comprising modifying a portion of a uniform resource locator associated with the internal links, wherein the internal links are accessible via the internal network, and wherein the means for translating translates any internal links contained in the web page into external links that are accessible via an external network;

means for communicating web page data, including any translated links, to a source of the request for the web page; and

means for deleting the link information from the link translation table after communicating the web page data to the source of the request for the web page.